

Message Text

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12

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 OIC-02 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS: UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE SESSION

REF: STATE 054588

1. REPRESENTATION PER PARA 4 REFTEL MADE BY DCM MARCH 10 TO HOLGER ROTKIRCH OF MFA LEGAL DEPT. LEGAL DEPT. HEAD GUSTAFSSON, WHO IS FINLAND'S TOP LOS EXPERT, DEPARTED FOR NEW YORK MEETING OF LANDLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES BEFORE HE COULD BE CONTACTED. ROTKIRCH HIMSELF GOING TO NEW YORK MARCH 12. DCM TOLD ROTKIRCH OF USDEL WILLINGNESS ENGAGE IN BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

2. ROTKIRCH SAID GOF, DESPITE MANY DIFFICULT POINTS OUTSTANDING, BELIEVES REASONABLY COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CAN BE ATTAINED BY END OF SUMMER SESSION. FINNS SHARE OUR CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE UNILATERAL ACTIONS

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IN LOS AREA. HE SAID THERE IS NO DOMESTIC PRESSURE FOR FINLAND

ACT UNILATERALLY. WE BELIEVE THAT USDEL WILL FIND FINNS
READY ACT RESPONSIBLY IN BRINGING LOS NEGOTIATIONS TO
SUCCESSFUL CLOSE AT EARLY DATE.

3. STRAITS PROBLEM, WHICH HAD BEEN MAJOR FINNISH CONCERN
A YEAR AGO, HAS RECEDED IN IMPORTANCE. FINNISH DEFENSE
OFFICIALS ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE LANGUAGE OF SINGLE TEXT
PROVIDING SPECIAL STATUS FOR "STRAITS REGULATED BY LONG-
STANDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS" BECAUSE THIS LANGUAGE
PROBABLY PERMITS UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF MILITARY VESSELS
THROUGH SWEDISH SIDE OF ALAND STRAITS. FINNS WOULD
PREFER REFERENCE TO "STRAITS AREA" RATHER THAN "STRAITS"
PROPER, UT REALIZE THEY HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF CHANGING
SINGLE TEXT.

4. FINNS LIKE THE US GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO ENSURING
FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE. SINCE FINNS
DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE TECHNICAL OR FINANCIAL
CAPABILITY TO EXPLOIT THE SEABED ON THEIR OWN, THEY
THEREFORE WANT VERY EXTENSIVE POWERS FOR INTERNATIONAL
SEABED AUTHORITY, BUT THEY CAN LIVE WITH US COMPROMISE
LANGUAGE PROPOSED AT END OF LAST SESSION. PRINCIPAL DIF-
FERENCE BETWEEN US AND FINLAND IS THAT FINNS WANT CHANGE
PRESENT SINGLE TEXT TO PERMIT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES
WHICH ARE DISADVANTAGED TO ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS DIS-
ADVANTAGED LDC' TO SHARE IN THE WEALTH ACCRUING NEIGHBOR-
ING COASTAL STATES UNDER NEW LOS CONVENTION.
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